

Improved Recovery Vehicle (IRV)

DESCRIPTION

The M88A2 Hercules is a full tracked heavy recovery system that is a significant upgrade to the current M88A1. The system improvements include increased armor protection, a more powerful engine, modified transmission, improved final drives, increased vehicle weight (to aid in towing stability), upgraded suspension, improved hydraulic system, new heavy duty wench, and increased overhead lift capability. It will replace the aging M88A1 tracked recovery vehicle as the sole heavy recovery asset in the Marine Corps. It will be called upon to recover and tow M1A1 Tanks as well as any other asset in the Marine Expeditionary Force that requires a heavy recovery vehicle.



PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY00	FY01
<i>Quantity:</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>16</i>

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The additional capabilities of the Hercules will give the operating forces relief from the current limitations of the M88A1. One Hercules can safely tow the M1A1 Tank. This capability will eliminate the need to use two recovery vehicles when towing a tank. The power train improvements will provide a more reliable recovery asset and reduce O&S costs. The ability to quickly and safely recover combat vehicles with the fewest assets possible will be a force multiplier.

PROGRAM STATUS

The Hercules is currently in production and being fielded by the U.S. Army. The Marine Corps ' Acquisition Strategy was approved in FY99 with a Procurement decision scheduled for FY00. FOC is scheduled for FY05.

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

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